

How Truffles Did It.

I returned to Ashville, after an absence of three years, and found my friend Truffles grown fat and jovial, with a face the very mirror of peace and self-satisfaction. Truffles was the village baker, and he was not like this when I went away.

Mr. Smith expects on his return from Nineveh to make a full translation of the document he has been fortunate enough to discover. He says: "In my last work, 'the Chaldean account of Genesis,' I have adopted the opinion that the Birs Nimroud, or Borsippa Tower, was the tower of Babel mentioned in Genesis; but the fact of the existence at Babylon itself of a tower twice the height of Birs Nimroud, materially alters the evidence on this question.

A VERY important work in connection with immigration has been inaugurated by Lieut. Col. Laurie, of Nova Scotia. It appears that for more than two years last past, he has devoted his efforts to "placing" children of from six to twelve years old, selected from among the destitute classes of England, in the province where he resides.

THE Carlist war, we may hope, is over, after having dragged its weary course along for so many years: Don Carlos having crossed the frontier and entered the town of Pau, the Prefect informed him that his presence was undesirable, but endeavored to atone for his want of hospitality by placing a special train at his disposal to convey him to the north of France, or to the Spanish frontier, the latter place being the one he might be expected of all places in the world, most inclined to avoid.

The Temple of Belus.

The work of discovery among the cuneiform texts of Babylonia and Assyria still goes on. The light that has already been thrown on the history of these ancient monarchies, has surpassed the highest expectations of the most sanguine. We were regaled a little while ago, with Assyrian and Babylonian accounts of the Deluge; next came an historical statement of the Creation, wonderfully agreeing in detail with the account in Genesis; and now there is brought before us a remarkable Babylonian text, just discovered by Mr. George Smith, the great Assyriologist, and giving a graphic description of the Temple of Belus, the grandest religious edifice in that part of the world, the centre of the national worship, and one of the wonders of the capital.

The Mound of Babil is by the best authorities identified with the Tower of Belus. It consists at present of the lower stage of the Tower and the ruins of the buildings around it. The sides of the building face the cardinal points like those of the inscription, and unlike the ruin, Birs Nimroud, on the other side of the Euphrates, whose angles face the cardinal points, and which doubtless represents the site of the Temple of Nebo at Borsippa. It is supposed that the magnificent superstructure of the Temple of Belus was re-

moved by Alexander in his operations for clearing the site and rebuilding the temple.

over the Isthmus of Suoz—the great highway between the wealth of the East and the enterprise of the West—if she wishes to secure her fair share of the advantages it offers. Of every hundred ships that pass through it, seventy-five belong to England.

The negro population of the United States appears to be gradually decreasing in the Northern States, and increasing in the Gulf States. The census of the parish of Plaquemine, in Louisiana, in 1870, showed a population of 10,482; in 1875, it is 11,882—an increase of 1,400. The coloured population in 1870, was 6,880, and in 1875 it is 8,290—an increase of 1,858, leaving only sixty for the increase of whites.

Xantippe.

It seems that the memory of this woman, like that of her renowned husband, is likely to be kept alive to the end of time. She is said to have possessed a very irritable temper, and her name has become a synonym of "vixen," or "scold." It is more than possible, however, that the judgment passed upon her by mankind has been too severe. A more charitable disposition would undoubtedly have discovered in her many good qualities, and have attributed her failings more to physical infirmities than to moral obliquity.

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HOME MISSION COMMITTEE. Western Division. The Home Mission Committee of the Western Division, will meet in the Deacons' Court Room of Knox Church, Toronto, on Monday evening, 3rd April next, at 7 p.m.

SYNOD OF HAMILTON AND LONDON. The Synod of Hamilton and London will meet in St. Paul's Church, Hamilton, on Tuesday, the second day of May next, at half-past seven o'clock, evening.

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